

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING OUR VETERANS

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 1997

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today not to praise the men and women who have served our Nation's Armed Forces, nor enumerate the deeds and sacrifices they have made for this country. I stand today to offer my most sincere gratitude and thanks to these ordinary citizens who have been called to do extraordinary things. As Veterans Day nears, we must ask ourselves what meaning this day has for us all.

This day, formerly known as Armistice Day, was conceived to honor those brave Americans who fought and died in the First World War. In 1938, the Congress passed a law officially making November 11th a national holiday. President Dwight D. Eisenhower, 16 years later in 1954, would sign legislation stating, "to honor Veterans on the 11th day of November each year . . . a day dedicated to world peace," formally recognizing this day as a time to honor those who have served this country.

The 11th hour, of the 11th day, of the 11th month, was the precise time which ended the First World War in 1918. That time marked the sacrifice of over 116,000 Americans who lost their lives on the battlefields of Northern France. This global war amassed more than 37 million military casualties, in addition to 10 million deaths among the civilian population. Although the horrors of war had been demonstrated to the world, an ill conceived peace from the Versailles conference, provided the impetus for a repeat of this madness with even deadlier consequences.

This day however, directly challenges those forces in the world that would break the fragile peace we now hold. And as each Veterans Day is celebrated, the fragility of that peace is strengthened and nurtured and allowed to grow; to grow with the hope that the flower it bears is not a poppy of sorrow, but rather a brilliant white rose celebrating peace.

Mr. Speaker, this day causes us all to think and reflect on the reasons why so many of our young men and women have served in our Armed Forces. For me, that answer is simple, to ensure the peace and domestic tranquility of this country. Though these words ring within the Constitution, it is that cause and that sentiment which these dedicated men and women have sworn to uphold. It is for that reason why this Nation in its vigil to maintain the peace, has helped to ensure the peace for the world and for generations of Americans to come.

War may glorify those human qualities which we hold high and dear but how much braver is the soldier standing on guard in 10 degree weather along the DMZ in Korea? How much more courageous is that maintenance personnel servicing vehicles in a lonely, isolated desert depot, or how dedicated is that medical assistant, routinely tending patients at

the base health center, than their predecessors who served during wartime conditions. The sacrifices of our service members today cannot be divorced from those men and women who served in the past.

It is this common thread which holds the very fabric of the peace which shrouds our democracy and our way of life. To forget these links is to weaken the purpose and meaning of this auspicious day. The bright torch of freedom has been handed from our combat veterans to our present day service members. That torch burns brightly as a beacon to the rest of the world that we as a Nation stand ready to defend our hard earned peace.

No Nation can survive alone on the assurances of its technology or economic prowess. The willingness of our common citizenry to commit themselves to the causes of freedom and democracy are the assurances that have ensured the survival and existence of this country.

And so I ask you, Mr. Speaker, and my fellow colleagues, to join with me in not just recognizing but thanking those who have served this Nation. Our gratitude for those servicemen and women of yesterday and today is immeasurable. My simple thanks, is the sincerest form I have, to offer a group of Americans whose service has yielded us the full fruits of freedom. God bless our veterans.

HONORING THE LIFE OF NORMA JEAN CHURNOCK

HON. JAMES E. ROGAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 1997

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a loving mother, a compassionate friend, and a dedicated woman of faith—Norma Jean Churnock. While her passing reminds us of our frailty, her persistence, love and devotion remind us of what life really means.

Norma was born in August 1931, and lived her entire life near her hometown of West Covina, CA. Norma was often a quiet woman, but to know her was to have learned volumes about strength from gentleness.

Too often, we find our lives unfocused and off center. We are distracted by the unimportant and we lose sight of what truly matters. This was not so with Norma. The pride of her life was her dedication to ministry and to her extended family at Calvary Bible Church in Glendale, CA.

For over 30 years, Norma served not just the members of our church and her community, but she dedicated her time—quietly and unselfishly—to the people of Los Angeles and the surrounding communities. Her years of service with the Haven of Rest sent a message of hope, proving that one person can make a difference.

Norma led an exemplary life and brought joy as a mother, a volunteer, and an active mem-

ber of our church family. As members of Calvary Church we looked to Norma as a dedicated matriarch of our faith. Her dedication carried beyond her love of music shown as a member of our choir. No job was too small; no task too great. Norma lived the exemplary Christian life by dedicating herself to serving those around her, and often those less fortunate than herself.

Mr. Speaker, we have lost a dear friend and a dedicated servant. Our solace comes from knowing we are not alone in remembering her and her dedication to all. In recognizing the memory of a true saint, I ask my colleagues to join me here today in saluting her life, and remembering in our prayers the family of Norma Jean Churnock.

IN HONOR OF MATTHEW S. FINLAY ON HIS ATTAINMENT OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 1997

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Matthew Finlay of Bay Village, OH, who will be honored for his attainment of Eagle Scout on November 23, 1997.

The attainment of Eagle Scout is a high and rare honor requiring years of dedication to self-improvement, hard work and the community. Each Eagle Scout must earn 21 merit badges, 12 of which are required, including badges in: lifesaving; first aid; citizenship in the community; citizenship in the Nation; citizenship in the world; personal management of time and money; family life; environmental science; and camping.

In addition to acquiring and proving proficiency in those and other skills, an Eagle Scout must hold leadership positions within the troop where he learns to earn the respect and hear the criticism of those he leads.

The Eagle Scout must live by the Scouting Law, which holds that he must be: trustworthy, loyal, brave, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, clean, and reverent.

And the Eagle Scout must complete an Eagle project, which he must plan, finance, and evaluate on his own. It is no wonder that only 2 percent of all boys entering scouting achieve this rank.

My fellow colleagues, let us recognize and praise Matthew for his achievement.

HONORING MAJ. GEN. ENOCH H. WILLIAMS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 1997

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work and achievements of Councilman Enoch Williams.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

While attending the needs of a racially and ethnically diverse constituency, Mr. Williams has been a member of the New York City Council, representing the 41st Councilmanic District, since 1978. Prior to entering elective office, Mr. Williams served as the executive director of the Housing Development Corp. of the Council of Churches of New York City. He was also a community-organization specialist in the now-famous Youth-in-Action, Inc. anti-poverty agency, where he developed the skill of working with community groups, guiding them to create housing and employment in the innercity.

While making important strides in his role as a councilman, Enoch has managed to contribute to his community in other meaningful ways. Currently, he is the civilian director of the New York City region of the Selective Service System. He is a member of the American Institute of Housing Consultants, the Community Service Society, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the National Urban League, and the Unity Democratic Club. In addition, the councilman served as an elected delegate to the 1992 Democratic National Convention, having served in the same capacity in 1968 and 1972. He also served as Democratic district leader from 1986 to 1994.

As a veteran, Major General Williams has again proven his commitment to his country. He was appointed commander of the New York Guard in 1990. After serving as an enlisted member during World War II, General Williams earned his commission in 1950, and has enjoyed over 30 years of active service. His military decorations include the Legion of Merit, Army Commendation Medal, both the Bronze and Silver, and Silver Selective Service System Meritorious Service Medals. He retired in June 1995 as commander of the New York Guard, with the rank of major general.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Councilman Enoch Williams for all of his years of faithful service to his country and to the 41st Councilmanic District of Brooklyn, NY.

TRIBUTE TO HELEN VINCENT

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 1997

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to extend sincere congratulations to Mrs. Helen Vincent on her retirement from Teamsters Union Local 142 next month. Helen will be honored for her 38 years of dedicated service to the Teamsters at a dinner to be held this Friday, November 7, at the Patio restaurant in Merrillville, IN. Helen's family and colleagues will be attending this special event, where Rick Kenney, secretary-treasurer of Teamsters Local 142, will speak in recognition of her outstanding service.

Helen began working as a secretary for Teamsters Local 142 in 1959. Founded in 1941 in Gary, IN, Teamsters Local 142 represents approximately 5,500 laborers in the trucking, warehousing, commercial services, municipalities, and manufacturing industries. Helen's responsibilities at Local 142 have included the preparation of contracts, personal secretarial work for the secretary-treasurer, bookkeeping, and related duties. Throughout

her career, Helen's coworkers have regarded her as a very reliable and efficient worker, who always goes above and beyond the call of duty. In addition to her outstanding career with the Teamsters, Helen and her husband of 39 years, Bob, successfully raised two fine sons, Robert and Mark.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Helen Vincent on her imminent retirement from Teamsters Local 142. In all aspects of her life, Helen has managed to put forth her best effort for a job well done. Helen's husband, children, and four wonderful grandchildren, Bobby, Megan, Sam, and Teresa, should be proud of her accomplishments, as she has been an invaluable source of guidance and support for both the Teamsters and her family.

COLOMBIAN NATIONAL POLICE 106TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 1997

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, permit me to take this opportunity to inform my colleagues that the 6th of November is the 106th anniversary of the Colombian National Police [CNP]. The CNP has been our longstanding partner in the war on drugs. The CNP's success has been orchestrated by its director general, Gen. Rosso Jose Serrano, and the fearless leader of the DANTI, their antinarcotics unit. Col. Leonardo Gallego.

Under the leadership of these two outstanding officers, the CNP has received worldwide recognition from the law enforcement community including FBI Director Freeh at a recent International Relations Committee hearing. Under their leadership, the CNP has broken the backs of the world's largest drug cartels in both Medellin and Cali. Their efforts should be duly recognized here today by Congress.

Regrettably, their success has had a price, the lives of more than 4,000 brave young CNP officers over the last 9 years. Their sacrifice cannot be underestimated, or go unnoticed. Their deaths were not in vain. Today, we honor their memories here in the House. Despite the tragedies of their deaths fighting drugs, the DANTI is world renowned for its record on human rights. This is a credit to their dedication to their mission, and a credit to their leaders, General Serrano and Colonel Gallego.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to include, at the conclusion of my remarks, a copy of the letter from myself, Mr. BURTON, Mr. HASTERT, and Mr. BALLENGER to General Serrano congratulating him on this occasion of the 106th anniversary of the CNP.

I know I echo the words of many of my colleagues here today. We thank the Colombian National Police for their outstanding, courageous efforts in the harshest of circumstances. We extend our heartfelt congratulations on their 106th anniversary and wish their continued success in all of their endeavors.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,

Washington, DC, November 5, 1997.

Gen. ROSSO JOSE SERRANO,
Director General, Colombian National Police.

DEAR GENERAL SERRANO: It is with great respect and admiration that we salute the

Colombian National Police on this, the 106th anniversary of its inception. The professionalism of your police force has been proven repeatedly under the most adverse challenges imaginable.

The sterling reputation of the Colombian National Police is one that is the envy of law enforcement organizations world-wide. The sacrifices of your policemen have made that reputation what it is today.

We applaud the Colombian National Police's loyalty and your dedication to the principles of law enforcement. We also encourage your adherence to human rights, and salute the DANTI's world-renowned human rights reputation. We salute your continued sacrifices for law and order in a democratic republic.

Finally, please tell your policemen that they are not forgotten.

With best wishes,

DAN BURTON,
Chairman, Govern-
ment Reform and
Oversight Commit-
tee.

BEN GILMAN,
Chairman, Inter-
national Relations
Committee.

J. DENNIS HASTERT
Chairman, National
Security Sub-
committee.

CASS BALLENGER
Vice Chairman,
Western Hemi-
sphere Subcommit-
tee.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1119, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZA- TION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 1997

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my concerns about two provisions in the conference report on H.R. 1119, the Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1998. Although I was a member of the conference, I was not a conferee for these provisions and was not aware of their final resolution until the completion of the conference report.

Sections 522 and 523 of H.R. 1119 mandates that the Secretary of Defense submit a plan to eliminate 4,350 non dual status military technicians. These are Federal civilian employees working for the National Guard and the Army Reserve, often in administrative and administrative support positions, who would not be required to report with their reserve units during a deployment. The bill directs the Secretary to recommend ways to convert the status of these employees if it is determined that their positions can not be eliminated or filled by dual status technicians.

In many cases, these employees fill support positions which would be subject to high turnover if filled by dual status employees. Current non dual status employees have provided stability to these positions, often at low rates of pay. This provision appears to prejudice the need to eliminate these employees before it has been established whether such a move will provide a savings to the Government, or will improve national security. Further, I am